

**RECEIVED****Glenda Wiles****From:** MACO Information [macopb@maco.cog.mt.us]**Sent:** Friday, July 20, 2007 11:19 AM**Subject:** FW: FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNICATIONS GRANTS**JUL 20 2007****Ravalli County Commissioners**

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*Press Office*

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

# Press Release

July 18, 2007

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## **SECRETARIES GUTIERREZ, CHERTOFF ANNOUNCE NEARLY \$1 BILLION IN FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNICATIONS GRANTS**

### **Funds to Help Fire Fighters, Police and Other First Responders Communicate During a Disaster**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez and U.S. Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff announced today \$968 million Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grants to help state and local first responders improve public safety communications and coordination during a natural or man-made disaster.

The PSIC grant program will assist public safety agencies in the acquisition, deployment, and training of interoperable communications systems to enhance interoperable communications of voice, data, and/or video signals. Also, released today are the grant guidance and application kits. Applications are due in 30 days, and grants will be awarded by September 30, 2007, as required by the Call Home Act of 2006.

The U.S. Congress established a ceiling of nearly \$1 billion for the one-time, formula-based, matching grant program in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The program will fast track awards to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.

"When disaster strikes, first responders must have the tools to communicate," said Secretary Gutierrez. "Under this streamlined program, states will be given grants to use technology that will make our cities and states safer."

"Achieving interoperable communications is a major priority for our department and should be a priority for every community across our nation," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "These grants will help states and cities purchase equipment, conduct training and exercises, and develop effective interoperable communications plans to get this important job done."

First responders from different jurisdictions and agencies use disparate communication technologies that impede critical communication among fire fighters, police, and other emergency personnel during a disaster. Such differences can pose problems and impede the critical work of the nation's first responders.

Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is working with

public safety agencies to achieve meaningful improvements in communicating during an emergency, and fill gaps identified in the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans. To address these goals, states and territories must consider advanced technological solutions that enhance capabilities for responding to all hazards when selecting projects for PSIC funding. In particular, applicants should consider solutions that use the nation's airwaves efficiently, are cost-effective, and enhance communications in areas at high risk for natural disasters. These options should continue to improve interoperable communication efforts in high-threat urban and metropolitan areas. Grant-funded projects must be completed by the end of fiscal year 2010.

PSIC funds were allocated using the PSIC Allocation Formula, which is based on the DHS method to identify threats, vulnerabilities and consequences. The grant program also is consistent with existing guidance from the SAFECOM Program Office within the DHS Office for Interoperability and Compatibility.

Attached are fact sheets and funding information for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories. Additional information can be found at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic> or <http://www.dhs.gov/xgovt/grants/index.shtm>.

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## PSIC FUNDING ALLOCATION



State	Funding Allocation
Alabama	\$ 13,585,399
Alaska	\$ 7,250,345
American Samoa	\$ 691,948
Arizona	\$ 17,713,050
Arkansas	\$ 11,169,402
California	\$ 94,034,510
Colorado	\$ 14,336,638
Connecticut	\$ 12,999,879
Delaware	\$ 8,196,842
District of Columbia	\$ 11,857,972
Florida	\$ 42,888,266
Georgia	\$ 25,311,354
Guam	\$ 2,600,678
Hawaii	\$ 8,069,879
Idaho	\$ 7,289,795
Illinois	\$ 36,414,263
Indiana	\$ 18,291,735
Iowa	\$ 10,935,974
Kansas	\$ 10,667,169
Kentucky	\$ 15,405,625
Louisiana	\$ 19,672,287
Maine	\$ 7,567,579
Maryland	\$ 22,934,593
Massachusetts	\$ 21,191,988
Michigan	\$ 25,039,781
Minnesota	\$ 14,262,071
Mississippi	\$ 10,989,345
Missouri	\$ 17,465,576
Montana	\$ 6,549,685
Nebraska	\$ 8,582,108
Nevada	\$ 12,042,417
New Hampshire	\$ 5,966,760
New Jersey	\$ 30,806,646
New Mexico	\$ 8,288,725
New York	\$ 60,734,783
North Carolina	\$ 22,130,199
North Dakota	\$ 7,052,490
Northern Mariana Islands	\$ 719,236
Ohio	\$ 29,377,337
Oklahoma	\$ 11,684,183
Oregon	\$ 12,182,532
Pennsylvania	\$ 34,190,555
Puerto Rico	\$ 9,590,025
Rhode Island	\$ 7,365,694
South Carolina	\$ 13,499,308
South Dakota	\$ 6,549,691
Tennessee	\$ 17,540,752
Texas	\$ 65,069,247
U.S. Virgin Islands	\$ 856,907
Utah	\$ 10,353,261
Vermont	\$ 4,476,761
Virginia	\$ 25,012,521
Washington	\$ 19,180,347
West Virginia	\$ 8,429,484
Wisconsin	\$ 15,367,216
Wyoming	\$ 5,952,187
<b>Total =</b>	<b>\$ 968,385,000</b>

Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)	Tier I UASI Funding	Total State Funding
Bay Area, CA	\$ 14,528,292	\$ 94,034,510
Chicago Area, IL	\$ 16,195,438	\$ 36,414,263
Houston Area, TX	\$ 14,586,128	\$ 65,069,247
Jersey City/Newark Area, NJ	\$ 17,495,751	\$ 30,806,646
Los Angeles/Long Beach Area, CA	\$ 22,278,788	\$ 94,034,510
National Capital Region*	\$ 11,857,972	\$ 11,857,972
New York City Area, NY	\$ 34,812,602	\$ 60,734,783

\*This allocation only represents District of Columbia funding, which may support the National Capital Region Tier 1 Urban Area. In submitting their investment justifications, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia SAAs should consider both State-specific as well as National Capital Region interoperability projects.



## **Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program FACT SHEET**

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), was authorized to establish and administer the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program as directed by Section 3006 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Pub. L. No. 109-171.) The Call Home Act of 2006 (Pub. L. No. 109-459) required NTIA to make grant awards by September 30, 2007.

Under this PSIC Grant Program, \$968,385,000 will be made available in grants to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and U.S. Virgin Islands. The Governor of each State and Territory has designated a State Administrative Agency (SAA) which can apply for and administer the funds under the PSIC Grant Program. The SAA is responsible for obligating PSIC funds to eligible pass-through recipients, which is statutorily defined as a public safety agency that is a State, local, or tribal government entity or nongovernmental organization authorized by such entity, whose sole or principal purpose is to protect safety of life, health, or property.

The PSIC Grant Program is designed to assist public safety agencies in the acquisition of, deployment of, or training for the use of interoperable communications systems that utilize – or enable interoperability with communications systems that can utilize – reallocated 700 MHz spectrum for radio communications.

Each public safety agency receiving PSIC funds is required to meet and document a 20 percent statutory match requirement for each project during the period of performance of the grant.

Up to 5 percent of the State's and Territory's total allocation can be used by the applicant to complete its Statewide Plan to ensure that the PSIC criteria are incorporated in the Statewide Plans. Funds designated for this purpose will be made available upon award.

For more information on the PSIC Grant Program, please contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) at 1-800-368-6498 or [askcsid@dhs.gov](mailto:askcsid@dhs.gov). Press and congressional offices should contact NTIA at 202-482-1840.

PSIC Grant Program updates will be posted on the NTIA website: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic>